

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

Meeting Summary

June 27, 2011

Called to order at 10:17 am at ADF&G in Bethel and adjourned at 12:55 pm. Ten of the thirteen members were present and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Continuing Business
- 2.) Old Business
- 3.) New Business
 - 1.) Gerald Simeon replaces Calvin Simeon as primary Middle River Subsistence member.

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) ADF&G will provide updated information at the next meeting regarding Chinook bycatch in the Pollock fishery and Chinook intercepted in Area M.
- 2.) ADF&G provide Kuskokwim salmon age classification information at the next meeting.

MEETING ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next KRSMWG meeting will be at 10:00 am Friday, July 1, 2011.

ADF&G RECOMMENDATION:

ADF&G recommended that effective at 12:01 am Wednesday, June 29, until 11:59 pm Thursday, July 7, subsistence salmon fishing be restricted in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River drainage. Subsistence fishing in District 1 would be allowed with gillnets not exceeding 6-inches in stretched mesh size, not more than 45 meshes deep, and not more than 50-fathoms in length.

USFWS RECOMMENDATION:

USFWS presented two recommendations that would not be district-wide. The proposed boundary would be from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River up to Kuskokuak Slough. USFWS recommended a subsistence fishing closure effective 12:01 am Wednesday, June 29, to 11:59 pm Friday, July 1. During this time, only 4-inch mesh nets not greater than 60 feet would be allowed. USFWS also recommended that this closure be followed by another subsistence fishing restriction effective 12:01 am Saturday, July 2 until 11:59 pm Thursday, July 7. During this time subsistence fishing would be allowed with mesh sizes 6-inches or less.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1.) Motion to suspend the KRSMWG rules in order to allow input from members of the public. Motion passed unanimously (10 Yeas, 0 Nays).
- 2.) Motion to support ADF&G recommendation (see above). Motion passed unanimously (8 Yeas, 0 Nays.)
- 3.) Motion to replace primary Middle River Member Calvin Simeon with Gerald Simeon. Motion passed unanimously (10 Yeas, 0 Nays).

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

- 1.) Bev Hoffman (Chair) read an email from Mark Leary in Napaimute, who reported fishing improved after the closure. He said that people were feeling better about meeting their needs, but that there were not enough big kings.
- 2.) Bev was also contacted by Myron Naneng, who prefers meetings on Tuesdays and was concerned about "severe" restrictions and people being fined.
- 3.) Peter Green, a commercial and subsistence fisherman, was a KRSMWG member in 1989 during the "chum crash." At that time, he translated for elders at the meetings. Peter said that elders had much more input at meetings back then, and that traditional knowledge is still important today. He shared some knowledge from Kenneth Peter, an elder from Akiachak, who says that when the water is low the salmon will mingle at the mouth of the river and the tributaries. When Kenneth recently caught some larger kings, he noticed that they looked like they had been swimming in fresh water for awhile.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

Mike Williams (Lower River Subsistence member) reported that Alga Kinogak in Tuluksak said that about 50% of people had met their subsistence needs and that bigger fish had been showing up above Bogus Creek. Mike is about 75% done fishing in Akiachak, and in Akiak the majority of people are 30% to 50% finished. Mike reported smaller Chinook but an abundance of red salmon in Akiak. Overall, fishing looked good in reports up and down the area, especially since larger Chinook have been caught in 4-inch nets. He thinks that in the next few days many people will meet their subsistence needs.

Mike also reported that in Akiak there have been many concerns and complaints about the current closure. The Akiak elders called a meeting last week and convinced people to prepare to fish illegally during the closure. However, after Chuck Brazil (ADF&G Area Manager) talked with the community, the elders felt less desperate and decided not to go through with the protest fishery.

James Charles (Downriver Elder) reported that people in Tuntutuliak have enough fish. The only people who have not met their subsistence needs were those with motor problems. One reason that people have enough already is that it didn't take long to catch what they needed. For instance, a few days ago his chum net was out for fifteen minutes and he caught 11 Chinook, 11 chum, and 16 reds. James believes that the fish are milling around at the mouth of the Kuskokwim. He hopes that the current storm will push fish upriver. Tim Andrew (AVCP) agreed with what James Charles said about fish milling around at the mouth. He talked to someone from Quinhagak who said that there seems to be a high abundance of Chinook in the Bay.

IN-SEASON SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

*Please see ONC 2011 Current and Historical Table at the end of the summary

Kuskokwim River In-season Subsistence Catch Monitoring Report Orutsarmiut Native Council

Date June 25, 2011

Fishing reports from June 20 –June 24, 2011.

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both
49	44	31	6	7	24	11	8

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
6	10	28	9	16	15	10	26	4

Does the salmon run appear to be running early, late, or normal?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
3	23	9	1	29	6	2	32	1

Comments: Salmon Fishing was closed in the survey area for a 5-day Chinook conservation closure beginning 12:01 am Thursday, June 23, through 12:01 Tuesday, June 28. Thus, this survey report reflects subsistence fishing effort for the time-period of Monday, June 20, through Wednesday, June 22. 49 families were surveyed this week for the in-season subsistence monitoring program. 44 (90%) of the families were fishing this week. 5 (10%) of the families did not fish this week. 31 (70%) families reported using drift nets. 6 (14%) families reported using set nets. 7 (16%) families reported using both. 24 (55%) of the families fishing used gill nets greater than 6-inch mesh. Most using the greater than 6-inch category referred to using specifically 8-inch mesh called "king gear," but some indicated they were using 7-inch gear. 11 (25%) of the families reported 6-inch mesh or less. 8 (18%) families reported using both. 1 family interviewed said that the fisher was not present and they were not sure what size mesh was used that week.

Some interviewed this week had just completed their harvest goals for Chinook. Others had some Chinook drying on the rack but planned to fish more to meet their harvest goals for the year if there was an opportunity. Some indicated they did not have as much Chinook as they normally put up for their families for the year but planned to target more Sockeye to make up for the difference. A couple of elders that indicated they had started fishing at their normal time in mid-June had net or boat repairs that kept them from fishing during this 3-day subsistence opening. They were concerned about being able to catch enough kings for their extended family after the 5-day closure, since they only had a handful of Chinook so far. A few elders also expressed they were concerned about the rush to fish that occurred before the closure, both out of concern that few fish would pass through to spawning grounds and the difficulty to fish in usual places because the river was so congested with boats.

The majority of families interviewed were satisfied with catches so far and were well underway to meeting their salmon harvest goals for the season. Some families indicated that they were fishing a little less in order to conserve Chinook. Many planned to resume fishing for a few more kings and to target sockeye specifically after the closure to meet their family's salmon needs for the year. All families indicated the weather had still been decent for drying fish this week. Some families expressed concern that the weather would be rainy after the fishing closure which would make drying fish more prone to spoiling.

Some families were still reporting that they had switched to smaller mesh gear to target more abundant smaller Chinook and that they were catching fewer females than usual. A few fishers indicated that Chinook were getting smaller each year, even though many fishers caught larger and more female kings in the last day or two of the subsistence opening. A few families were already catching Chinook slightly bluish with spawning colors.

Chinook:

Catch rate: Of the 44 families fishing this week, 6 (14%) families reported the Chinook catch as very good, 10 (22%) families reported the catch as normal, 28 (64%) families reported it as poor. Many fishers noted using 8-inch "king gear" but others noted they switched to smaller mesh gear (6-inch or 5.5-inch) to catch smaller kings and to prevent fish from hitting the net and getting through it. Some reported using both "king gear" and 6-inch or less to increase their catch rate because of the greater percentage of small kings. Most noted they had better catch rates of Chinook with the smaller size mesh this week but more fishers reported some larger Chinook showing up a day or two before the closure. Several fishers commented that the water levels were low and clear which may allow fish to see the nets or swim deeper. These fishers noted better catches at night with less visibility and an overall majority of catches near the bottom of the net just above the lead line.

Run timing: Of the 44 families that reported fishing this week, 3 (7%) families reported the run as early, 23 (52%) families reported the run timing as normal, and 9 (20%) families reported the run to be late this year. 9 (20%) families did not comment on run timing. Many noted their own fishing pattern was different this year due to the closures and so they felt they didn't have a good sense of what stage the run was at.

Chum:

Catch Rate: 9 (21%) families reported their catch rates as good. 16 (36%) families reported their catches as normal. 15 (35%) families reported their chum catches as poor. 4 (9%) families didn't report due to no chum catches yet or felt that catches were only a reflection of by-catch in 8-inch mesh.

Run timing: 1 (2%) family reported the run return as early. 29 (66%) families reported the salmon run timing as normal. 6 (14%) families reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 8 (18%) families were unable to report due to few chum catches yet.

Sockeye:

Catch Rate: 10 (23%) families reported their catch rates as good. 26 (59%) families reported their catch as normal. 4 (9%) families reported their sockeye catches as poor. 4 (9%) families didn't report due to not targeting sockeye yet. Some fishers indicated getting good catches of large robust sockeye this year and hoped to dry more sockeye to make up for smaller Chinook harvests.

Run timing: 2 (5%) families reported the run return as early. 32 (73%) families reported the salmon run timing as normal. 1 (2%) family reported the run to be late compared to previous years. 9 (20%) families were unable to report on run timing due to not specifically targeting sockeye yet.

MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Wayne Morgan reported that people in Aniak started catching fish last Wednesday. At that time the average was six to ten good-sized (30 pound) fish. Then the numbers decreased when fishermen used smaller mesh. He reported mostly small fish (20 pounds or less) overall. Since June 17, two families with two boats and two nets caught only 45 Chinook with "king gear," only ten of which were over 30 pounds. Some reds and chums were caught, as well. Since

then, the water rose and had much debris. Many people fished last weekend, but caught only a few fish for their effort.

KNA INSEASON SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Please see KNA weekly subsistence survey results for June 18 through June 24, 2011, on pages 6-8 of this document. According to survey results, three households specifically mentioned that they supported the closures in District 1.

UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Ray Collins reported that fishing was slow and he had nothing specific to add to the KNA report.

Bob Aloysius (YK Delta RAC member) said that in Kalskag they were "catching sticks," and not Chinook. In nine drifts only three fish were over 30 pounds; five were less than twenty pounds; and some reds and chums were caught in Chinook gear. People were very frustrated. He reported that the most successful fishermen were using 7-inch gear.

HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE REPORT: no report

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Reports, June 18 to June 24, 2011

*NR = No Response

VILLAGE	FAMILY	FISHING Y/N	GEAR TYPE	MESH SIZE	SPECIES	RUN COMPARED TO RECENT YEARS	AVERAGE # FISH CAUGHT DAILY
Kalskag	FAMILY A	Yes	Set Net	NR			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday Since last contacted, caught 6 reds, 13 kings, and 9 dogs. Said the fish numbers are going up. Would like to say thank you for whatever the working group is doing; it's working and much appreciated.					Sockeye	NR	6 (week total)
					Chinook	NR	13 (week total)
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	9 (week total)
Kalskag	FAMILY B	Yes	Set Net	NR			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday Since last contacted, caught 4 reds and 5 kings. Salmon run still below average.					Sockeye	Below Average	4 (week total)
					Chinook	Below Average	5 (week total)
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0
Aniak	FAMILY C	Yes	Drift Net	7", 5 1/4 "			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed 06/24/11 Friday Drifted using a 7" king net and a 5 1/4" red net. Caught 17 kings (1 female king so far), 41 chum, and 12 sockeye. Mentioned the fishing is still not good, there are hardly any big kings, they are all small. The closure downriver doesn't seem to be helping up here, we can barely see a change.					Sockeye	NR	12
					Chinook	NR	17
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	41
Aniak	FAMILY D	Yes	Drift Net	6"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-24-11 Friday Drifted 3 times and caught 3 sockeye, 1 Chinook and 19 chum. Mentioned there are usually more kings this time of year, Things seem to be below average.					Sockeye	Below Average	3 (week total)
					Chinook	Below Average	1 (week total)
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	Below Average	19 (week total)
Aniak	FAMILY E	Yes	Drift Net	6"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed 6/23/11 Thursday Have been fishing on and off since last contacted. Caught 5 chum and 2 jack kings. The numbers are below average for the king salmon and the kings caught are all small.					Sockeye	Below Average	0
					Chinook	Below Average	2 (week total)
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	5 (week total)

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Reports, June 18 to June 24, 2011 (Continued)

*NR = No Response

VILLAGE	FAMILY	FISHING Y/N	GEAR TYPE	MESH SIZE	SPECIES	RUN COMPARED TO RECENT YEARS	AVERAGE # FISH CAUGHT DAILY
Chuathbaluk	FAMILY G	Yes	Drift Net	"dog"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday Just started drifting, only caught 2 kings so far. The closure was good to have again because there's hardly any fish upriver.					Sockeye	NR	0
					Chinook	NR	2 (week total)
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	0
Chuathbaluk	FAMILY H	Yes	Drift Net	7 ¼"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday Since last contacted, caught 27 kings, 50 dogs, and 20 reds. Fishing is picking up and doing better with the closure down river.					Sockeye	NR	20
					Chinook	NR	27
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	50
Crooked Creek	FAMILY I	Yes	Drift Net	7"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-22-11 Wednesday Monday: 2 drifts caught 1 dog. Way below average.					Sockeye	Below Average	0
					Chinook	Below Average	0
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	1 (week total)
Crooked Creek	FAMILY J	Yes	Drift Net	5 ¾"			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday In the past week have caught a total amount of 6 kings, 3 dogs, and 1 red. Fishing is still below average.					Sockeye	Below Average	1 (week total)
					Chinook	Below Average	6 (week total)
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	3 (week total)
Sleetmute	FAMILY K	Yes	Set Net	NR			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Thursday Caught 8 kings and 1 red in this last week. Would say for sure the salmon size is below average. Below average fishing.					Sockeye	Below Average	1 (week total)
					Chinook	Below Average	8 (week total)
					Coho	Below Average	0
					Chum	Below Average	0

KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Reports, June 18 to June 24, 2011 (Continued)

*NR = No Response

VILLAGE	FAMILY	FISHING Y/N	GEAR TYPE	MESH SIZE	SPECIES	RUN COMPARED TO RECENT YEARS	AVERAGE # FISH CAUGHT DAILY
Stony River	FAMILY L	Yes	Fish Wheel	NR			
<u>Comments:</u> Interviewed: 06-23-11 Caught 3 small female kings since last contacted. Still below average for fishing. Said KNA doing this report is a good idea because it lets people know how bad fishing is upriver.					Sockeye	NR	0
					Chinook	NR	3 (week total)
					Coho	NR	0
					Chum	NR	0
<u>KNA Comments:</u> The following participant families have not been able to contact: Aniak (1 family), McGrath (1 family) The following participant families have not started fishing yet: Sleetmute (1 family contacted)							

DISCUSSION OF RUN ASSESSMENT DATA:

BETHEL TEST FISH:

The Crooked Creek water gauge has been working intermittently but the water level has been rising. Water temperature fluctuated from average to below average, and water visibility remains clear.

Chinook run passage is currently at 70%. According to the BTF CPUE, we are about 37 points below the lower confidence interval of not meeting Chinook escapement goals.

Sockeye run passage is at 48%. Sockeye abundance is good and better than the last five years. Chum run passage is at 25% with good abundance as the run continues to build.

WEIRS/SONAR/MARK-RECAPTURE/AERIAL SURVEYS:

Chris Sheldon (ADF&G) reported that the Tuluksak weir was operational on June 25th but had no salmon pass yet. Water on the Kwethluk River was still high and the site will be assessed for weir installation in a few days. Aniak sonar began operation this week, and weirs were operational on the George, Tatlawiksuk, and Kogrukluks Rivers.

Chinook numbers at the George River are looking better than recent years. Kogrukluks had the earliest installation since 2005 but it was too early for any salmon passage. Chris pointed out that out of four weirs with escapement goals, Kogrukluks was the only one that met Chinook goals in 2010.

For Chum salmon, the passage at the George River weir is currently higher than any of the years when escapement goals were not met.

COMMENTS:

Wayne Morgan (Middle River Subsistence) commented that even with the closure, the cumulative Chinook CPUE was still low. ADF&G staff replied that yes, he was correct.

Ray Collins (Western Interior RAC) asked about 2010 aerial surveys on the Pitka Fork of the Salmon River. Chris Shelden responded that bad weather made the surveys lower quality, but still useable. It was further stated that visibility, when poor, affects aerial assessments of abundance on all rivers.

Jeff Sanders asked if ADF&G managed the 6-year old age class of the Chinook. Chris Shelden replied that no, the agency manages based on numbers of fish. Jeff asked why, since age classes of all salmon species except for pinks can be assessed by weir projects. ADF&G explained that weirs cannot provide this age data early enough in the run, due to the distance between BTF and the different projects. The only age data available inseason is from the previous year.

Wayne Morgan asked when fish are counted at weirs. Chris Shelden responded that counting occurs during daylight hours, usually 8 am through 11 pm. Counting is not constant and it stops during ASL sampling. Dan Gillikin (USFWS) added that Tuluksak is a video weir that counts 24 hours a day. Travis Ellison (ADF&G) added that the highest Chinook passage is between 8 pm and midnight. Chris commented that at Kogruklu, in the past, counting was done at night with lights, but when they compared counting 24 hours a day with the daylight passage, the numbers were not significantly different.

PROCESSOR REPORT:

Stuart Currie (Kuskokwim Seafoods) has finalized preparations and is ready to process.

SPORT FISH REPORT:

John Chythlook (Sport Fish) did not have much to report for the mainstem Kuskokwim, but he heard that sport fishing had been good on the Kanektok and Goodnews Rivers. No reports yet from fishers in the Aniak area.

WEATHER FORECAST:

Showers in the Bethel area. 30-40 mph winds in Tuntutuliak.

ADF&G RECOMMENDATION:

Effective at 12:01 am Wednesday, June 29, 2011 until 11:59 pm Thursday, July 7, 2011, subsistence salmon fishing is restricted in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River Drainage. Subsistence fishing in District 1 is allowed with gillnets not exceeding 6-inches in stretched mesh size. Nets may not be more than 45 meshes deep and not more than 50-fathoms in length. *It was clarified that District 1 consists of waters upstream of a line from Apokak Slough to the southernmost tip of Eek Island to the Popokamiut, upstream to Bogus Creek.*

USFWS RECOMMENDATION:

USFWS presented two recommendations that would not be district-wide. The proposed area affected would be from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River up to Kuskokuak Slough. USFWS recommended a subsistence fishing closure effective 12:01 am Wednesday, June 29, until

11:59 pm Friday, July 1. During this time, only 4-inch mesh nets not greater than 60 feet would be allowed. This closure would be followed by another restriction effective 12:01 am Saturday, July 2, until 11:59 pm Thursday, July 7. During this time subsistence fishing with 6-inch or smaller mesh would be allowed.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

MOTION 1: Motion to suspend the KRSMWG rules in order to allow input from members of the public. Motion passed unanimously (10 Yeas, 0 Nays).

MOTION 2: Motion to support ADF&G recommendation (see above). Motion passed unanimously (8 Yeas, 0 Nays) (*Middle River Subsistence Member not present for the vote.*). USFWS will negotiate with the state about taking further federal action.

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 2:

Stuart Currie asked for clarification on run passage and how BTF CPUE applies to tributaries of concern. Kevin Schaberg (ADF&G) said that Chinook passage on today's date historically is at 71%, and on July 6 it will be at 90%. Since the run is composed of mixed stocks, it is difficult to tell how harvest will affect individual stocks.

Dave Cannon questioned ADF&G's recommendation as a conservation tool, since it had been mentioned at previous meetings that smaller mesh can have greater Chinook catch efficiency. Chuck Brazil responded that the higher density of chum and sockeye will prevent too many Chinook from being caught in 6-inch mesh at this time in the season.

Casie Stockdale (AVCP) asked why ADF&G proposed restrictions for the whole district, and ADF&G explained that the Tuluksak River, which still has a conservation concern, is located at the upper end of District 1.

Stuart Currie was concerned that people may waste the other species while trying to target Chinook. Chuck replied that he hopes that people will use the opportunity to supplement their Chinook harvest with sockeye and chum. Alissa Joseph (ONC) agreed with Chuck and said that even when people are targeting Chinook, they use other stocks and nothing is wasted. Chair said she also used chum for making strips (instead of the traditional kings) this year because of the conservation concern.

USFWS was still very concerned about escapement on tributaries in the conservation unit. Tom Doolittle (USFWS) objected to ADF&G's recommendation because he felt that it would not allow enough large Chinook salmon to reach spawning grounds. He stated that offspring from larger females have better survival rates, which is why getting these females upstream is especially important. Bev Hoffman argued that they have had a 4-day closure and a 5-day closure, which should have allowed many fish to get upstream. The fish catches from downriver showed that people are only 50% to 75% finished, and further restrictions will create more hardships for those who need to finish filling their fish racks. Henry Lupie agreed with the Chair, and reminded the group that many people cooperated with the first two closures. He was concerned that some people would be reluctant to go along with another closure and thought that the 6" mesh restriction was a more reasonable alternative than the 4" mesh restriction.

James Charles agreed with the ADF&G recommendation. After the discussion, Mike Williams agreed, as well.

Stuart Currie asked Chuck Brazil if he knew when a commercial fishing opener would be possible. Chuck could not give an immediate answer but would get back to him as soon as possible.

MOTION 3: Motion to replace primary Middle River Subsistence Member Calvin Simeon with Gerald Simeon. Motion passed unanimously (10 Yeas, 0 Nays).

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Regarding the discussion earlier in the meeting about fish possibly milling around the mouth of the river and the impact of commercial fishing in Kuskokwim Bay on river-bound Chinook, Travis Ellison (ADF&G) explained that most information regarding Kuskokwim River-bound fish harvested in Quinhagak came from Ray Baxter's 1969-1970 study. District 4 Chinook were tagged and released by commercial fishermen for the study, and results showed that in 1969, 0.6% of tagged fish were recaptured in the Kuskokwim River; in 1970 0.9% were recaptured in the river. If the high estimate of 0.9% is applied to the 2010 District 4 commercial harvest of 14,230 Chinook, then only 128 Chinook bound for the Kuskokwim River were harvested in District 4 last year.

Members voiced their concern for Chinook caught in high seas fisheries and in Area M. Henry Lupie said that in the future the KRSMWG should have a management agreement with the high seas fisheries. Confrontations between Yukon and Kuskokwim communities and law enforcement happened in the 1970's, and Henry "would hate to see the same thing happen again on the Kuskokwim." George Alexie requested that ADF&G present data at the next meeting regarding Chinook bycatch in Area M. Henry Lupie also wanted this information, and asked if the fish are retained or thrown away. Mike Williams agreed that heavier measures need to be taken in the high-seas. In regard to these issues, Doug Molyneaux responded, "Kuskokwim River (and Yukon River) Chinook spend their entire marine residency in the Bering Sea, not in the Gulf of Alaska. It is unlikely that many of the Area M Chinook....would include Kuskokwim (or Yukon) Chinook....By the time the Area M fishery occurs, nearly all Kuskokwim (and Yukon) Chinook should be more than halfway across the Bering Sea en route to these rivers." Additionally, Molyneaux mentioned the WASSIP genetics study, but it was corrected after the meeting that this study only addresses chum and sockeye, not Chinook.

Henry Lupie suggested that something to consider for next year is Tuntutuliak's concern about fishing closures during good drying weather. However, he was happy that the KRSMWG voted in favor of ADF&G's recommendation.

Ray Collins thanked downriver communities for enduring the closures. Gerald Simeon said that we all have to get our fish, and wanted to thank downriver, as well.

Bob Aloysius would like agency recommendations to be decided upon prior to meetings. However, the Chair reminded him that the agencies want to take the data and member input from the meeting into consideration, which is why the mid-meeting caucuses are necessary.

Stuart Currie empathized with subsistence fishermen meeting their needs. However, he is also concerned about keeping a commercial fishing operation on the Kuskokwim River because of its positive impact on the community. "It is now on the verge of becoming as endangered as the Kwethluk and Tuluksak king salmon are," which is unfortunate because for ten years there was no commercial fishery and they worked hard to bring it back.

Mike Williams stated that "by using tribal governments and elders we can achieve much with conservation." The elders from Akiak say to only take what we need, and we need to continue to respect traditional knowledge. Communities should take proper protocols when fishing. He strongly recommended that ADF&G and USFWS travel to villages to talk to people, because miscommunication is the greatest enemy. He said that we need to look at why the Yukon and Kuskokwim are having trouble. Finally, he commented that since this area is economically poor, commercial fishing effort should be applauded for providing economic opportunity to local communities.

James Charles commented that in the past, announcements made by the department were more clear and gave more notice. They were even in the Delta Discovery newspaper sometimes. People from up and down the river have been calling him to complain about the short notices. He also thinks that advanced notification will prevent citations. Robert Sundown (USFWS) suggested that people use the 24-hour recording available at 907-543-2433, which is updated as soon as ADF&G takes any action. ADF&G said that they will also send out the information by phone, fax, KYUK radio, and through the email news release system.

Bev Hoffman commented that nine total days of closure was "a hard chip." She wants ADF&G and USFWS to work together "with clear minds" in order to get the word out ASAP. She added that because of the rainy weather, we need to be very vigilant about taking care of our fish so that they don't spoil.

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Vacant</i>
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
COMMERCIAL FISHER	George Alexie
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSTENCE	Wayne Morgan
UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
PROCESSOR	Stuart Currie
MEMBER AT LARGE	Henry Lupie
SPORT FISHER	Beverly Hoffman
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
Y-K DELTA RAC	Bob Aloysius
ADF&G	Chuck Brazil
CHAIR	Beverly Hoffman

Other Participants:	
<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish :</u> Chuck Brazil, Kevin Schaberg, Christopher Shelden, Holly Carroll, Alice Bailey, Scott Ayers, Travis Elison <u>Sport Fish :</u> John Chythlook, Tom Taube <u>Subsistence Division:</u> Dora Johnson, Hiroko Ikuta, David Runfola, Andrew Brenner	
<u>USFWS:</u> Dan Gillikin, Tom Doolittle, Robert Sundown, Steve Miller <u>OSM:</u> Alex Nick, Don Rivard, Rod Campbell, Ken Harper	
Doug Molyneaux Shane Iverson, KYUK Carl Berger Ron Kaiser Jeff Sanders Peter Green Jolie Morgan Paul Jacobs Dave Cannon, Aniak	La Donn Robbins, KNA Gerald Simeon, (new) Middle River Subsistence member Elsie Simeon, Aniak TC Administrator Fritz Charles, Member at Large Alissa Joseph, ADF&G Board Support and ONC Iyana Dull, ONC Eva Patton, ONC Casie Stockdale, AVCP Tim Andrew AVCP

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsararmiut Native Council (**ONC**), Kuskokwim Native Association (**KNA**), Association of Village Council Presidents (**AVCP**), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (**USFWS**), Bethel Test Fishery project (**BTF**), Catch Per Unit Effort (**CPUE**), Coastal Village Seafoods (**CVS**), ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division (**CF**), ADF&G Sport Fisheries Division (**SF**), Regional Advisory Council (**RAC**), Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (**KRSMWG** or **Working Group, WG**), Sustainable Escapement Goal (**SEG**), Biological Escapement Goal (**BEG**).

ONC Inseason Subsistence Surveys – 2011 Current and Historical Catch Rate Information

Responses from the question: "Compared with this time in a "Normal" year, how were catch rates for salmon this week?"
 "ND" indicates that no data was collected because respondents felt it was too early in the run to assess this information.

Year	Week Ending	Number of Families			Chinook salmon			Chum salmon			Sockeye salmon		
		Inter-viewed	Fishing	Not Fishing	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
2011	Jun 05	36	11	25	36%	36%	0	ND	ND	ND	9%	9%	0
	Jun 12	69	41	28	7%	34%	49%	10%	46%	10%	10%	46%	7%
	Jun 19	57	56	1	25%	38%	37%	14%	52%	20%	14%	57%	18%
	Jun 26	49	44	5	14%	22%	64%	21%	36%	34%	23%	59%	9%
2010	Jun 06	19	6	13	0	100%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 13	39	28	11	4%	50%	46%	0	72%	28%	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 20	26	23	3	9%	65%	26%	0	100%	0	0	96%	4%
	Jun 27	37	37	0	3%	73%	24%	3%	92%	5%	5%	81%	14%
	Jul 04	38	36	2	8%	69%	22%	14%	78%	8%	3%	69%	28%
	Jul 11	20	11	9	0	91%	0%	27%	64%	0	18%	55%	18%
2009	Jun 07	20	6	14	0	67%	33%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 14	43	38	5	29%	50%	21%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 21	44	44	0	41%	36%	23%	0	100%	0	0	86%	14%
	Jun 28	36	31	5	39%	55%	6%	3%	77%	9%	6%	71%	23%
	Jul 05	36	5	31	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jul 12	36	2	34	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
2008	Jun 08	27	5	22	20%	60%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 16	34	17	17	0	76%	24%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 22	32	27	5	56%	44%	0	0	74%	26%	81%	19%	0
	Jun 29	33	27	6	52%	48%	0	15%	85%	0	56%	44%	0
	Jul 08	35	15	20	20%	80%	0	0	100%	0	47%	53%	0
	Jul 13	32	3	29	0	100%	0	33%	67%	0	0	100%	0
2007	Jun 03	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 12	39	28	11	0	29%	71%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	40	33	7	0	30%	70%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 24	44	40	4	0	35%	65%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jul 02	36	20	12	45%	45%	10%	80%	20%	0	0	40	60%
	Jul 08	33	10	23	60%	40%	0	80%	20%	0	30%	70%	0
	Jul 14	33	6	27	0	0	100	0	33%	67%	0	17%	83%
2006	Jun 03	22	0	22	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 10	32	19	13	32%	68%	0	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	36	30	6	60%	40%	0	60%	40%	0	53%	47%	0
	Jun 25	48	43	5	79%	21%	0	91%	9%	0	19%	56%	26%
	Jul 02	46	14	32	21%	79%	0	71%	29%	0	43%	57%	0
	Jul 09	38	8	30	0	100%	0	25%	75%	0	37%	63%	0
	Jul 17	26	5	21	0	100%	0	100	0	0	0	100%	0